

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BISSAU 00228 291644Z
ACTION SCSE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CFED, CV, PU
SUBJ: SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES IN CAPE VERDE

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO CAPE VERDE, GOCV RAISED QUESTION OF CONTINUED PAYMENTS BY SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO BENEFICIARIES RESIDING IN CAPE VERDE. WE EXPLAINED THAT U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION REQUIRES THAT A FOREIGN COUNTRY HAVE A BROAD -BASED NATIONAL SOCIAL INSURANCE SYSTEM WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WOULD MAKE PAYMENTS TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS, NO MATTER WHERE RESIDENT, WHO QUALIFIED FOR BENEFITS. WE NOTED THAT USG HAD UNDERSTANDING FOR PROBLEMS FACING A NEWLY-INDEPENDENT COUNTRY SUCH AS CAPE VERDE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES ON THE BASIS THAT DURING A TEMPORARY TRANSITION PERIOD THESE BENEFICIARIES CONTINUE TO BE PORTUGUESE CITIZENS AS WELL AS CAPE VERDEANS. (FOREGOING WAS BASED ON BRIEFING MATERIAL GIVEN AMBASSADOR DURING CONSULTATIONS.)

2. GOCV WELCOMED THE NEWS THAT A TEAM FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WAS PLANNING TO VISIT CAPE VERDE IN APRIL 1977. WE PROMISED TO KEEP GOCV INFORMED AS TO TIMING OF VISIT AS WELL AS ANY PREPARATORY ADVANCE WORK THAT WOULD ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE US-CAPE VERDE MEETINGS.

3. ON RATHER URGENT BASIS, GOCV RAISED ISSUE OF ELEVEN
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PERSONS WHOSE SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED. ALL ELEVEN IN THIS CATEGORY WERE CAPE VERDEANS WHO WERE NOT NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZENS, HAD LIVED IN THE U.S. LESS THAN TEN YEARS, AND WHO HAD BEEN OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. GOCV OFFICIALS STRESSED THE HARDSHIP THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE UNDERGOING BECAUSE THEIR PENSIONS WERE SUS-

PENDED WITH CAPE VERDEAN INDEPENDENCE ABOUT EIGHTEEN MONTHS
AGO.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE CASE OF THESE ELEVEN SUSPENDED
PENSIONERS IS REFERRED TO IN THE GOCV'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO
THIS EMBASSY DATED AUGUST 11, 1976 WHICH WAS FORWARDED TO
WASHINGTON. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWINRRWHETHER RE-
INSTATEMENT OF ELEVEN PENSIONS IS POSSIBLE ON INTERIM BASIS
BEFORE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF OVERALL SOCIAL
INSURANCE SYSTEM FOR CAPE VERDE.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
WELLS

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NNN

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